

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 13 as follows:

Fig. 8 is a detailed section view of a leading end and a trailing end of the stabilization device of Fig. 7 when assembled.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 19 and ending on page 10, line 2 as follows:

When stabilization device 120 has been inserted in one of the pathways 60, 70, inner member 150 can be advanced in outer member 122 such that leading end nose 156 contacts tapered inner surface portion 148 of outer member 122 along leading end portion 133 of passage 130 as shown in dashed lines in Fig. 8. Leading end portion 126 includes a slot or relief 136 that provides at least two fingers 132, 134. Leading end nose 156 provides a wedge-effect and pushes on inner surface portion 148 to bias fingers 132, 134 away from one another and to deploy end nose 156 into firm engagement with the adjacent bony tissue of the pathway 60, 70 into which stabilization device 120 has been positioned.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 3 as follows:

Similarly, trailing end 128 of outer member 122 includes a slot or relief 142 that provides at least two fingers 138, 140 adjacent trailing end portion 128. The tapered surface of intermediate nose 162 contacts and pushes on intermediate tapered portion 146 of passage 130, providing a wedge effect that pushes fingers 138, 140 away from one another as shown in dashed lines in Fig. 8. Trailing end 128 is then deployed into engagement with the adjacent bony tissue of the pathways 60, 70 into which stabilization device 120 has been positioned.